

"Luke Powery integrates close readings of prophetic literature and the spirituals, and makes a major contribution to our understanding of the interrelationship of music and homiletics. He attends carefully not only to the words of the spirituals but to their musical idiom and affect, thus deepening the conversation that needs to go on between music and theology. Through the course of his discussion Powery illuminates the relationship between death and hope in ways that resonate with the depths of the gospel. An important book for all who are interested in the intersections of preaching, music, and theology."

—**Thomas H. Troeger**
Yale Divinity School

"Like a master artisan at a kiln firing pottery, and like the majestic prophetic voices of old, Luke Powery, as scholar and homileticist signals an artistic, engaging clarion call reminding us of the importance of authentic preaching which must help congregants and the world reckon with death and the daily death-dealing enterprises (personal, societal, natural meteorological events). *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope* engages African American Spirituals and Ezekiel 3's infamous 'valley of the dry bones' as metaphor to problematize contemporary preaching, amidst life's paradoxes and chaos, critiquing prosperity gospel messages that fail to deal with death; without such heightened awareness and preaching, Powery notes that the faithful cannot know resurrection hope. This is a must read for those who tarry with the God's people, particularly those in faith communities, as they make their way from birth to death on earth, towards eternal life."

—**Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan**
Shaw University Divinity School

"Powery provides a powerful contextual counter narrative to contemporary prosperity preaching by resurrecting the social historical synergy of death and hope in the lived experience of the faithful. *Dem Dry Bones* should be required reading in seminaries and churches as a tool for recovery of effective, life affirming preaching."

—**Teresa Fry Brown**
Candler School of Theology